

PART TEN.

Art Work

- OF -

CITY OF KALAMAZOO. 

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EAST AVENUE SCHOOL.



LAKE STREET SCHOOL



THE AMERICAN.



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roads have there termini here. The Michigan Central is the great line, and one of the mighty highways between the Atlantic and Pacific. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern is an extension of that great line to Grand Rapids and Northern Michigan and gives Kalamazoo the advantage of competing freight and passenger rates. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Road runs from the Coal Regions of Pennsylvania to the upper peninsula of Michigan—from the Indiana Line to Grand Rapids nearly alongside its rival, the Michigan Southern.

The roads having one of their termini here, are the South Haven and the C. K. & S. (Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw); the first affording the advantage of near connection with Lake Michigan, its commerce and its summer resorts, and the other running northeastward through Hastings, Lansing, etc., towards the Saginaws. These roads, taken together, for the purpose of freight and passenger traffic, put Kalamazoo in full and easy connection with the whole outside world.

Kalamazoo is well supplied with good hotels giving admirable service and satisfaction to the traveling public. Some of these hotels, like the Kalamazoo House and the Burdick, are of long established reputation; among others of more recent date, the American is best known.

GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND POSTOFFICE.

Kalamazoo has a new Government building for Postoffice purposes, erected at a cost of about \$80,000. It is conveniently located and answers the growing needs of the large and constantly increasing business done at this office. A fact that speaks volumes for the intelligence and character of the people of Kalamazoo and immediate vicinity, is the rank which her Postoffice holds among others in the State. She now stands next to Detroit and Grand Rapids, and so ranks third. The annual income of the office here is \$52,000, and it is the United States Depository for Southern Michigan.

CELERY CULTIVATION.

Celery culture is the greatest single industry of Kalamazoo. In 1875 a Hollander spaded up a small bit of marsh on South Burdick Street and planted it out to celery as an experiment. It succeeded, and from this the enterprise has grown to gigantic proportions. It is estimated that the celery gardens within the city limits and immediate suburbs embrace a total area of more than 28,000 acres, all marsh, or bottom lands skirting the river and its tributaries. Most of the labor in the celery gardens is done by Hollanders, nearly 3,000 men, women and children, being annually employed, who, in rubber boots and wooden shoes, dig in the moist trenches, bidding defiance to malaria, diphtheria and lung diseases. The drainage and subjugation of the natural marsh soil, its fertilization by manures, the planting out, subsequent cultivation and gathering of

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the crop—almost entirely hand work from the commencement to the close—is laborious in the extreme.

Kalamazoo celery takes precedence for quality in all the leading markets. It is shipped daily throughout the season in large quantities to nearly every State in the Union. The regular season of shipment commences about the first of July, and is prolonged by winter storage until the succeeding March or April. The value of the annual product is estimated at \$1,000,000, and upwards. Thus from this small and almost accidental beginning has grown up a great industry which, more, perhaps, than any other, has made Kalamazoo famous throughout the world. The business, so far as the cultivation of the crop is concerned, is in the hands of our frugal and industrious Holland fellow citizens, whose annual product thus finds its way to the people of a continent—perhaps, as a kind of unconscious token of the old loyalty and remembrance to the royal table of the Fatherland.

MANUFACTURES.

We have saved this subject for the last, not because it is unimportant, but for the very reason of its importance. There is no question that Kalamazoo owes her present prosperity to and founds the future hopes on her manufactures.

Away back in the fifties and sixties, when Kalamazoo was the “big village” and full of well-to-do men who seemed content to lend out their money at ten per cent on real estate mortgages and enjoy their comfortable homes, there was a saying prevalent that Grand Rapids was building herself up by borrowing money from Kalamazoo. To a certain extent this was no doubt true. That enterprising city did borrow money to start new enterprises on which she has built herself up into a large and growing prosperity and a population second in the State.

But the time finally came to Kalamazoo when she realized that something besides money loaning was necessary to the growth of the city, and at about the time of her adoption of a city character, as already stated, she roused herself from her easy-going ways, and began to pour her capital into live business enterprises and exert her quickened energies in the direction of encouragement to manufactures and manufacturing plants. The result was as speedy as it was gratifying. Plant after plant has succeeded each other in these last ten years, until now Kalamazoo can make a splendid showing as a manufacturing city.

It is impossible to go into the particulars of the history and description of more than fifty manufacturing concerns in Kalamazoo, without extending this work beyond its intended length, and besides such is not its purpose. But the following list, which though doubtless imperfect and incomplete, will serve to give some idea of the extent and volume of the present manufacturing interests of Kalamazoo.